

660/127 non-optical distal tip attachment CLAIMS

- 1 1. An accessory device for an optical probe comprising a body and an attachment element for  
 2 attaching the accessory device to the probe, said attachment element detaching from the body  
 3 of the accessory device when the accessory device is removed from the probe, thereby  
 4 preventing re-use of the accessory device.
- 1 2. The accessory device of claim 1, wherein said attachment element includes a grasping  
 2 element and wherein grasping said grasping element detaches said attachment element from  
 3 the body of the accessory device.
- 1 3. The accessory device of claim 2, wherein the grasping element is a tab or snap ring.
- 1 4. The accessory device of claim 1, wherein the attachment element is conformable to an end of  
 2 the probe bearing illumination optics.
- 1 5. The accessory device of claim 4, wherein the attachment element is flexible and the body of  
 2 the accessory device is rigid.
- 1 6. The accessory device of claim 1, wherein the attachment element is separated from the body  
 2 of the accessory device by perforations and wherein rupturing said perforations detaches the  
 3 attachment element from the body of the accessory device.
- 1 7. The accessory device of claim 1, wherein at least a portion of the device is made of a shrink-  
 2 fitted material.
- 1 8. The accessory device of claim 7, wherein the shrink-fitted material is shrinkable using heat.
- 1 9. The accessory device of claim 7, wherein the accessory device can be rolled up before and  
 2 after use with an optical probe.

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 1 10. An accessory device for an optical probe, comprising an integral light-focusing element.

1 11. The accessory device of claim 10, wherein said integral light-focusing element includes  
 2 an annular lens.

1 12. The accessory device of claim 10, wherein the accessory device comprises an end for  
 2 attachment to said optical probe and an end distal to said end for attachment including an  
 3 integral faceted mirror.

1 13. The accessory device of claim 10, wherein the accessory device is at least partially  
 2 transparent.

1 14. The accessory device of claim 13, wherein said accessory device comprises a window.

1 15. The accessory device of claim 14, wherein the window is at least partially flat.

1 16. The accessory device of claim 13, wherein the window functions as an objective for an  
 2 optical probe.

1 17. The accessory device of claim 13, wherein the window forms a segmented lens.

1 18. The accessory device of claim 10, wherein the accessory device further includes an  
 2 illuminating light source.

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 1 19. An accessory device for use with an optical probe, comprising a connecting ring, said  
 2 connecting ring comprising a plurality of openings sized to accept a plurality of light  
 3 transmitting fibers from said optical probe.

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 1 20. An accessory device for an optical probe, comprising an electrical element bearing  
 2 encoded information.

1 21. The accessory device of claim 20, wherein said electrical element is encoded with  
2 identification information.

1 22. The accessory device of claim 20, wherein said electrical element enables certain  
2 operating modes of the device.

1 23. The accessory device of claim 20, wherein said electrical element is remotely  
2 programmable.

1 24. The accessory device of claim 20, wherein said electrical element is an RFID chip.

1 25. A system, comprising:

2 a processor including a memory, said memory comprising identification  
3 information; and

4 an electrical element reader for accessing information encoded in an electrical  
5 element and for transmitting a signal to the processor relating to information carried by  
6 the electrical element,

7 wherein the processor compares identification information encoded in the  
8 electrical element to identification information within the memory, and transmits  
9 instructions based on whether or not a match is found between identification information  
10 encoded in the electrical element and identification information encoded in the memory.

1 26. The system of claim 25, wherein if no match is found, the identification information  
2 encoded in the electrical element is added to the memory.

1 27. The system of claim 25, wherein the instructions include an instruction which permits  
2 an optical probe to function if no match is found.

- 1 28. The system of claim 25, wherein the instructions include an instruction which prevents an  
2 optical probe from functioning if a match is found.
- 1 29. The system of claim 27 or 28, further comprising:  
2 an optical probe comprising illumination optics for illuminating a sample  
3 and for receiving light emitted by the sample; and  
4 an accessory device comprising an electrical element bearing  
5 identification information which can be accessed by the electrical element reader.
- 1 30. The system of claim 29, wherein the electrical element is remotely programmable.
- 1 31. The system of claim 29, further comprising a light source in communication with said  
2 probe, and wherein transmission of light from the light source is controlled by the  
3 processor.
- 1 32. The system of claim 29, wherein the electrical element reader is attached to the optical  
2 probe.
- 1 33. The system of claim 29, wherein the electrical element reader is integrally attached to the  
2 optical probe.
- 1 34. The system of claim 29, wherein the electrical element reader is removably  
2 attached to the optical probe.
- 1 35. The system of claim 30, wherein the electrical element is an RFID chip and the electrical  
2 element reader is a transponder.
- 1 36. The system of claim 29, wherein the electrical element further includes information  
2 relating to a target tissue being analyzed.

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